

## SUBMARINE BOAT PLANNED BY SIMON LAKE FOR THE NAVY.

Like the Argonaut, she will run on wheels at the bottom of the sea. She will be able to run on the surface—use to which she might be put in war time.

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One day, just before the close of the last Congress, a mild-mannered, blue-eyed man from Connecticut, walked into the Naval Committee room of the House of Representatives. He said he had something new, but tried, in the shape of a submarine boat, and he wanted a chance to compete should any submarine boat be provided for at that session. He was Simon Lake. For twenty years he has been working away on the question of submarine navigation, and he has twenty odd patents covering his inventions along that line.

"From the first," said Mr. Lake, "I believed in getting something to stand on, so to speak, and when I found it was not to be the surface of the water, then I determined to make it the bottom of the sea. God has blessed the fish with an involuntary power of accommodation, and to it subsequent travel along a chosen plane presents no difficulties to its unchanging mass. With man's fabrication of steel, to foresee and to act responsively to the same instantaneous degree is impossible. The change of position of one of the crew, when the boat is going on wheels, will result in a slight lead to disastrous consequences before the altered dip of the craft could be checked, and she might even find herself now in the water and now on land as the man moved forward or aft as the time. How much more serious would the results be should the boat be going at full tilt?"

With the close of hostilities, Mr. Lake turned his attention to fitting the Argonaut for the commercial work for which she was designed. She was equipped with a bottom for crabs, removing obstructions, pumping out water from sunken vessels, building under-water foundations, and dozens of other things. Mr. Lake submitted to the Navy Department carefully worked-out plans for submarine boats of three orders: a small and light boat, a medium boat, and a large boat for coast defense work, and a still larger order for cruising purposes, having a radius of action of thousands of miles. The result of Mr. Lake's interview with the Board of Construction will be the building of a boat of the coast-defense type to be tried in competition with the submarine boats now being built for this Government.

The Argonaut was designed to travel along the bottom, the boat resting upon three massive wheels, each of which the single one at the stern acting as a rudder. She made many descents on her way down the Chesapeake, and travelled over all kinds of bottom, from the soft mud to the hard sand. She was run up hill and down dale and across dredged channels, and at all times, it was found that she could be readily maintained on the bottom, and that the number is increasing rather rapidly. All of which goes to prove that woman is making herself at home in a field of work which is peculiarly adapted to her.

This is apart from the women florists who are carrying on business like the men florists. If the class of women referred to may be judged by some known specimens, they are educated, intelligent and enterprising. Some have taken up the occupation purely from interest in it, others wish to add to an income from other sources and a livelihood. There are both spinsters and wives, and their addresses indicate that as a rule they live either in the country or in suburbs of small towns.

The growing attention given to flowers and the increasing rewards of those successful in the business are of course the causes of the development, but an interesting feature of it is the fact that some of the women are brought into the occupation by their pleasure purely. They have become interested in some one flower, have grasped the results developing new forms and modifying old ones and have found a calling provided for them in their specialty. Thus a number of women devote themselves to one flower or at most to a few flowers exclusively.

The qualities required to be peculiarly feminine are useful in this occupation. They are taste in arrangement and delicacy of manipulation, which is especially needed in the operation of hybridizing. The amount of really hard manual labor required by a woman who does most of her own gardening is small, and it is reduced to a minimum by labor saving implements.

The rewards of a woman who does not make a regular business of this kind of gardening are not very great in money, but she can consider herself well paid to make the difference between straitened circumstances and comfort in many circumstances. Lists of prize winners show the amount of money that can be won by a woman who has a few flowers in her garden.

It has been found in all submarine boats of the sub-surface type that navigation was tantamount to steering in a dense fog, and the moment the craft was launched the navigator was likewise aided.

With the Lake boat, when running on the bottom, this difficulty is removed, for, unaffected by the currents, the boat's head upon the water floor keeps her in a direct course, even though the navigator be absolutely in the dark. Mr. Lake has found his compasses to work with satisfactory accuracy when once compensated, and all that is necessary is for him to take his bearings before sinking, following that course by compass when on the bottom, and that was all.

For scout work it is intended to have stations well off the coast to which the boats could repair and by making connection with telegraph cables, they could communicate at once with the shore. It is not generally known, but it is possible to keep within soundings of 150 feet, the maximum depth of salt in their course, our coast at distances of from fifteen to twenty-five miles. With an advance guard of submarine pickets boats it would be possible to establish a line of communication with the minimum of expense.

To connect with the cable boat by cross bearings would locate the spot, lower the two anchors and slowly draw the boat down to the junction box. The diver would then go out, complete the circuit and communication could at once be held with the shore. By rising the motor the boat could be lowered and the diver could be hoisted clear of the boat could observe every movement of the enemy until well up, directing the station ashore as to the speed and course bearing of the approaching foe, and then if discovered sink completely out of sight in three seconds.

Should she wish to attack, all she need do would be to drop the sealed end of the cable, raise her anchors and have at the enemy. If the approaching foe were light craft or torpedo boats, the coast-defense submarine could effectively use her two 1-pounder guns on them, and

that while presenting only the target of her tower. At night, against such small craft, it would be better for her to do that than to waste her torpedoes; and the boat so designed that she could fire at her hull from the body of the boat, while navigation could be carried on from below.

The boat Mr. Lake is about to build will be nearly 30 feet long and will have a surface speed of 12 knots and a total submerged speed of 7 knots; in the semi-submerged state she will be able to do 10 knots. On the surface, the craft will be driven by a couple of gasoline engines, and when running beneath the water she will be propelled by a dynamo supplied from storage batteries. This same dynamo will also supply the high pressure, which will charge the batteries. Mr. Lake estimates that enough electricity can be stored in his batteries to give the boat a submerged radius of action of five miles. He estimates that his 30-foot vessel will have a cruising radius of 1,000 miles upon her usual fuel allowance. As the boat will be used for on or off-shore work, that is more than ample.

By way of armament, the boat will carry two one-pounder rapid-fire guns in the deck, which will be arranged in hand-screw joints that they can have a considerable train yet be watertight, and for torpedo service she will have three torpedo tubes, two forward and one aft, and reserve of two more torpedoes, for each tube will ordinarily be the storehouse for a torpedo. The discharge of the torpedoes from the tubes will be effected by compressed air, and the pointing will be done by bringing the whole craft to bear upon the target.

It will be possible to keep the boat submerged two days, if necessary, there being no need of air, and the pressure in the air-fills for that purpose. Mr. Lake has found, from previous experience, that his boats were actually cooler when submerged than when on the surface, when open and being ventilated from the surface. The boat is propelled by twin screws, which, besides the advantage of steering, will give the boat a reserve of power in case of emergency, and will have a corrective force tending to maintain the lateral stability of the vessel when at full tilt.

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For scout work it is intended to have stations well off the coast to which the boats could repair and by making connection with telegraph cables, they could communicate at once with the shore. It is not generally known, but it is possible to keep within soundings of 150 feet, the maximum depth of salt in their course, our coast at distances of from fifteen to twenty-five miles. With an advance guard of submarine pickets boats it would be possible to establish a line of communication with the minimum of expense.

To connect with the cable boat by cross bearings would locate the spot, lower the two anchors and slowly draw the boat down to the junction box. The diver would then go out, complete the circuit and communication could at once be held with the shore. By rising the motor the boat could be lowered and the diver could be hoisted clear of the boat could observe every movement of the enemy until well up, directing the station ashore as to the speed and course bearing of the approaching foe, and then if discovered sink completely out of sight in three seconds.

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## THE CO-OPERATIVE FLAT.

## SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF THE BACHELOR GIRL.

Comforts Obtained When Three or Four Women Take a Flat Together and Keep House—The Plan Tried With Success—Congenial Business Women.

A woman advertised recently for two young business women of assured incomes to join her in taking an apartment in the autumn for the winter for keeping house together. The advertiser was a public school teacher. She received nearly fifty answers to her advertisement and only a few seemed to have been written out of curiosity or for amusement. Seven were from women teachers in the public schools and there were a number from instructors in languages, visiting governesses and secretaries. There were some stenographers, and a few artists who wished to share a studio. A book cover designer, a professional masseuse, an actress and a woman caterer were among the others.

The advertisement and its results illustrated the difficulty encountered by professional women earning weekly salaries of \$25 and upward in finding suitable accommodations.

"The problem of where to live will never be solved for women by the so-called women's hotel," said the woman who advertised. "It will appeal to some women and it will be of help to some women, but it will not remedy the conditions that make the obtaining of independence and comfort for the modern woman a problem. The solution of the problem lies in the way of the difficulty, but by cooperative flatting among business women."

"Every woman who has ever kept house has the idea that two or more women find it difficult to get along together under such circumstances, but the experiment is being made with success in many instances now, and women who have got into the new way of sharing their homes and expenses say that the companionship of the cooperative flat plan is a good influence and has a broadening effect."

"The bachelor girl, so called, is a young or sometimes a middle-aged woman, wage earning and living alone in a city. Her family may be somewhere in the West or South, and the exigencies of business life have brought her on to New York. To her the comforts and surroundings of a boarding house are extremely unpleasant. Also in boarding houses, the bachelor woman is always confronted with the double room problem. That is, if the landlady has a comfortable, well-appointed double room she is not willing to let it to one person unless that person is prepared to pay the price that two would for the same accommodations. Frequently, the unattached woman does pay this double price."

"The result of the plan is a very light sort of house-keeping in their studios are undoubtedly happier than the boarding-house girls but the trouble is that they have to do the house-keeping and pay for it. The studio girl lives in her charming flat, and all her money goes for rent, laundry work and the tipping that is necessary to a comfortable life in a boarding house."

"Now as to the difficulties in the way of cooperative flatting. The principal one is in getting together three or four women who are willing to do it. It is not always possible to accomplish this at first, but one failure does not mean disaster. As a general rule, it is a good idea to get a group of three or four women, either students, but actual wage-earners who understand life's responsibilities. One butterfly with an allowance and nothing to do but to loaf, will ruin the plan. It is to the stage or the concert as a means of livelihood will demoralize a household of working women."

"The women being brought together and congeniality secured as far as it can be without actual experience under one roof, the matter of expenditure must be carefully considered. It is wise to have a list of things that one woman who takes the responsibility of management and this can be arranged on a money basis or the tenants may take turns in the management of the household and expenses. But there is usually one woman who has a gift for managing a house and servants and the others are glad as a rule to have her do the house-keeping. She does the house-keeping and the others are glad as a rule to have her do the house-keeping. She does the house-keeping and the others are glad as a rule to have her do the house-keeping."

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## GERMAN DOCTORS STRIKE.

## THEY RESIST THE LOW FEES OF THE MEDICAL AID SOCIETIES.

Power of the Latter Institutions Through-out Germany Gave Rise to an Unusual Economic Struggle—Apothecaries an Unpopular Factor in the Dispute.

BERLIN, July 22.—An unusual economic struggle is going on in Germany between the medical aid societies called *Krankenkassen*, on the one hand, and the medical profession on the other. Roughly speaking, every one in Germany engaged in industrial pursuits and enjoying an income of less than \$500 a year, must be a member of one of the medical aid societies which exists in every town. The result is that about 9,000,000 males, heads of families, belonging to these *Krankenkassen*. The members are divided into five classes, according to the daily wages they receive ranging from 25 cents to 45 cents, and paying weekly contributions according to class, of 65 pfennig (say 15 cents), 54 pf., 42 pf., 27 pf. and 24 pf., the last being paid by persons under 16.

In return for this weekly contribution the members receive free medical attendance and drugs, and an allowance during illness, beginning on the third day after the illness has begun, of 44 cents, 36 cents, 29 cents, 18 cents, and 16 cents until cured. The *Krankenkassen* were organized in 1883. There are one of the institutions which strikingly display the prudence characteristic of the German people and in a large measure obviate the necessity of an elaborate poor law system. Insurance against sickness is by it made compulsory for the vast majority of workers, and under it every employer of labor must see that his workmen are registered within a week after they enter his service.

The doctors, however, who supply the medical aid societies, have large claims, and it is over the question of the fees paid to the doctors that the quarrel has arisen. The doctors demand for them from \$100 to \$200 a year, or from 8 to 20 pfennig a consultation, and 50 pfennig a visit, is insufficient, not to say degrading. The *Krankenkassen* respond that the doctors make up for their comfortable income, that the post of doctor is a respectable and profitable status, and finally that the *Krankenkassen* are not to be blamed for the fact that the doctors are as a rule, only too glad to be appointed.

The apothecaries are brought into the quarrel, but they refuse to make any discount on the prices of the drugs ordered by the societies in accordance with the doctors' prescriptions, and demand an exact, as the *Krankenkassen* have large claims, and it is over the question of the fees paid to the doctors that the quarrel has arisen. The doctors demand for them from \$100 to \$200 a year, or from 8 to 20 pfennig a consultation, and 50 pfennig a visit, is insufficient, not to say degrading. The *Krankenkassen* respond that the doctors make up for their comfortable income, that the post of doctor is a respectable and profitable status, and finally that the *Krankenkassen* are not to be blamed for the fact that the doctors are as a rule, only too glad to be appointed.

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